

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 11, 1848.

Submitted, considered by unanimous consent, and agreed to, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of C. T. Browne, administrator of Robert B. Carter, deceased, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

The claim of the petitioner arises under various contracts made by the War Department for the supply of rations for subsistence to the troops of the United States in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Florida, and the Creek nation, during the years 1812, 1813, and 1814. Two of the contracts appear to have been made by J. Roddey, but were conducted under the name of R. B. Carter & Co., and J. Roddey & Co., respectively, and others made by the said R. B. Carter.

Partial reports have been made by former committees of Congress, to whom the subject had been referred, but no definite action was had on them; and it is manifest to your committee, from the examinations which have been made, that the accounts are so complicated, and involve such a mass of detail, as to make it impracticable for a committee with whatever labor to adjust them. They recommend, therefore, that they be referred to special accounting officers of the government, to examine into and adjust them upon evidence, and to report their proceedings to Congress at a future session.

The committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the First, Third, and Sixth Auditors of the Treasury, any two of whom may act, be, and they are hereby, instructed to examine, state, and settle the accounts between the United States and the several parties interested in, or who composed, the firms of R. B. Carter & Co., J. Roddey & Co., and R. B. Carter, arising under contracts made by them, or certain of them, with the government, for the supply of rations to troops in the service of the government in the years 1812, 1813, and 1814, and in the States of Georgia, North and South Carolina, and in Florida and the Creek nation of Indians.

That said accountants state any balances that may appear due (if any) to said contractors under said contracts, separately, after applying proper credits.

That they state said accounts on such evidence as may be laid before them, under oath, and, at their discretion, upon the depositions of witnesses who may appear before them; and upon all questions which may arise, in which the interests of the United States would require the aid of counsel, that they act under the advice and control of the Solicitor of the Treasury.

The report of said accountants to be made as soon as completed to the Senate.